



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION

CALIFORNIA DIVISION

650 Capitol Mall, Suite 4-100

Sacramento, CA. 95814

July 28, 2004

IN REPLY REFER TO

HDA-CA

Document #: S45522

Mr. Randall Iwasaki, Acting Director
California Department of Transportation
1120 N Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Attention: Federal Resources Office, Room 3500
Rachel Falsetti, Transportation Programming

Dear Mr. Iwasaki:

SUBJECT: Stanislaus Council of Governments (StanCOG) Amendment No. 23 to the 2002/03-2004/05 Federal Transportation Improvement Program (FTIP) and Amendment No. 1 to the 2001 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP)

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) have completed our review of Amendment No. 23 to StanCOG's 2002/03-2004/05 Federal Transportation Improvement Program (FTIP), Amendment No. 1 to the 2001 Regional Transportation Plan, and Final Conformity Determination that were received on July 22, 2004. StanCOG adopted FTIP Amendment No. 23, RTP Amendment 1, and made a conformity determination for StanCOG's FTIP and RTP as amended with Resolution No. 04-01 on July 14, 2004.

The FTIP amendment adds numerous Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) and Regional Surface Transportation Program (RSTP) projects and facilitates the delay of three State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) projects. The delay of projects from the triennial element required that a new conformity determination be made.

We accept this amendment in accordance with the provisions of 23 CFR Part 450. We find that this amendment was developed through a continuing, cooperative, and comprehensive transportation planning process carried out in accordance with the provisions of 23 U.S.C. section 134, and section 8 of the Federal Transit Act (49 U.S.C. app. §1607). We find the financial documentation supports that the FTIP, as amended, is financially constrained.

Based on our review, we find StanCOG's FTIP through Amendment No. 23 and 2001 RTP through Amendment No. 1 conform to the applicable SIP in accordance with the provisions of 40 CFR Parts 51 and 93 as well as the Environmental Protection Agency's May 14, 1999 memorandum "*Conformity Guidance on Implementation of March 2, 1999 Conformity Court Decision.*" Pursuant to 40 CFR Part 51 and 93, this finding has been coordinated with the Region IX office of the Environmental Protection Agency.

This letter constitutes the FHWA and the FTA's approval of StanCOG's FTIP Amendment No. 23 for inclusion into California's 2002/03 – 2004/05 Federal Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (FSTIP). In accordance with the procedures outlined in the FHWA/FTA Memorandum of Understanding, dated July 15, 2004, the FHWA's single signature constitutes FHWA and FTA's joint approval.

Sincerely,

/s/ K. Sue Kiser

For
Gene K. Fong
Division Administrator

cc:
StanCOG FTIP Binder

cc: (e-mail)
Gary Dickson, STANCOG
Lark Downs, STANCOG
Connie Medina, Caltrans (District 10)
Randy Steen, Caltrans (Federal Resources Branch)
Terry Abbott, Caltrans (Office of Local Programs)
Muhaned Aljabiry, Caltrans, (Transportation Programming)
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Ray Sukys, FTA Region IX
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